

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0557

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FOR EUR/NE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASIG, EI
SUBJECT: POST REPORTING

REF: STATE 109869

1. EMBASSY DUBLIN WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE AN INFORMAL REPORTING PLAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF CY-1978. IT GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW REPORTING OVER THE PAST YEAR IN THE LIGHT OF SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. IT ALSO MAY ELICIT END-USER COMMENTS FROM THE EUR/NE INTER-AGENCY GROUP THAT CAN GUIDE THE MISSION EFFORTS AND FILL GAPS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE COORDINATION OF MISSION REPORTING IS A PROBLEM IN DUBLIN. IN PROJECTING OUR REPORTING WE DO NOT DISCUSS THE DAO OR ICA. THE DATT HAS (IN ADDITION TO HIS OWN IR SCHEDULE) A ROLE IN REPORTING MILITARY CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AND IN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION ON WEAPONS SMUGGLING. THIS IS COORDINATED WITH POL AND THE DCM, AND, WE BELIEVE, APPROPRIATELY IS CROSS REFERENCED TO AVOID DUPLICATION ICA REPORTING IS EITHER REQUIRED BY THE AGENCY OR IS MEDIA-REACTIVE. THE CONSULAR SECTION PLAYS AN IMPORTANT POLICY ROLE IN REPORTING EFFORTS OF IRISH-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPORT FUND-RAISERS INTO THE U.S. IN
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SUPPORT OF THE PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS. THIS ACTIVITY IS CAREFULLY COORDINATED WITH POL AND THE DCM BUT IS ESSENTIALLY REACTIVE.

2. POLITICAL REPORTING:

A) DOMESTIC POLITICAL REPORTING: THE THREE MAJOR

PARTIES' POLITICAL CONVENTIONS PROVIDE BENCHMARKS FOR REPORTING ON PARTIES' PLANS AND PROGRAMS. TWO HAVE BEEN HELD AND THE THIRD WILL BE HELD THIS MONTH.

B) DOMESTIC POLITICAL REPORTING: WE ANTICIPATE THE NEED FOR AT LEAST TWO "THINK PIECES" ON THE PROGRESS OF THE GOVERNING FIANNA FAIL PARTY'S PROGRAMS AND THE DIFFICULTIES IT WILL FIND ITSELF IN AS PROMISES PRE NOT FULFILLED.

C) DOMESTIC POLITICAL REPORTING: FINE GAEL PARTY LEADER GARRET FITZGERALD IS PUTTING FORTH HIS USUAL DYNAMIC EFFORT TO ENERGIZE HIS PARTY'S ORGANIZATION AND REORIENT PARTY POLICY. A MAJOR RESTATEMENT OF ITS POLICIES MAY BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

D) DOMESTIC POLITICAL REPORTING: UNDERLYING SOCIAL PROBLEMS WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE GOVERNMENT AS THEY TRY TO REACT TO PUBLIC DEMANDS: EMIGRATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, CHURCH/STATE RELATIONS, URBANIZATION AND THE EFFECT OF IRELAND'S FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC ON THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF THIS STILL RATHER POOR NATION. THESE SUBJECTS ARE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO SPOT REPORTING, BUT AT LEAST ONE ESSENTIALLY POLITICAL "TRENDS REPORT" IS IN ORDER DURING THE LAST HALF OF 1978.

3. NORTHERN IRELAND:
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A) ELECTIONS IN THE UK, POSSIBLY IN THE AUTUMN, MIGHT BRING THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY FOR FORWARD MOVEMENT IN BRITISH POLICY TOWARD THE NORTH. WE MUST BE PREPARED TO REPORT ON DUBLIN'S REACTION TO ANY CHANGE IN THE STALEMATED LACK OF ANY MOVEMENT THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED THE SCENE THERE OVER THE PAST MONTHS.

B) THE RECENT PUBLIC CARPING BETWEEN DUBLIN AND LONDON BEARS WATCHING, BUT THIS IS MORE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SPOT REPORTING THAN SCHEDULED ANALYSIS.

C) WE MUST CONTINUE TO "FEED THE PIPELINE" WITH INTELLIGENCE DESIGNED TO HALT PRIVATE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE SHIPMENT OF WEAPONS AND MONEY TO PARAMILITARY GROUPS IN THE NORTH. AGAIN, THIS IS MORE A MATTER OF SPOT REPORTING, BUT WE FEEL THAT CONSTANT DIALOGUE IS VERY IMPORTANT.

D) THE PRESIDENT'S 1977 STATEMENT: WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN COOPERATE IN SUGGESTING POSSIBLE JOB-CREATING INCENTIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER SHOULD, IN OUR

OPINION, BE THE SUBJECT OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND
DIALOGUE BETWEEN LONDON, DUBLIN AND BELFAST AND THE
INTER-AGENCY GROUP IN WASHINGTON.

4. BILATERAL AFFAIRS:

PRIME MINISTER LYNCH IS MAKING HIS FIRST VISIT TO
THE UNITED STATES IN HIS PRESENT INCUMBENCY NEXT WEEK
-- TO THE UNSSOD -- AND REPORTS WILL BE IN ORDER. THE

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BILATERAL ASPECT IS SUBSUMED MOSTLY UNDER OTHER HEADINGS;
I.E., NORTHERN IRELAND, EC, MULTILATERAL, AND COMMERCIAL/
ECONOMIC, BUT WE WILL PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES TO SPOT
REPORT ON THE COMPLICATED FAMILIAL AND POLITICAL ASPECTS
OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS:

A) WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE
IRISH ON UNGA MATTERS IN AUGUST AND EARLY SEPTEMBER.
TIMELINESS IS A PROBLEM, NOT SO MUCH ON THE USG'S PART,
BUT BECAUSE THE GOI HAS CHEERFULLY ADAPTED TO THE EC
HABIT OF CLOSING UP THE SHOP IN AUGUST.

B) THERE IS PERIODIC NEED TO CONSULT WITH THE IRISH
ON ILO MATTERS, PARTICULARLY THE JUNE CONFERENCE.

C) IRELAND AND THE EC: INVESTMENT INCENTIVES, THE
REGIONAL FUND AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE IN GENERAL
AND EC ENLARGEMENT WILL BE MAJOR CONCERNS FOR THE GOI.

D) WE SHOULD REPORT EVERY TWO MONTHS APPROXIMATELY
BEGINNING LATE IN 1978 ON THE CANDIDATES AND EMERGING

ISSUES IN THE 1979 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS.

E) WE PLAN TO REPORT ON IRISH THINKING ON MAJOR
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ISSUES SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS, DISARMAMENT, NORTH-SOUTH
QUESTIONS, AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. ITEMS B) THROUGH
E) COULD BE PART OF A POLITICAL TRENDS REPORT LATER IN
1978 OR THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE ANALYSIS.

F) REPORTING ON THE IRISH CONTINGENT TO LEBANON,
FAST DEVELOPING AT THIS WRITING, WILL REQUIRE COORDINA-
TION OF EFFORTS IN THE EMBASSY AND WITH THE IRISH MFA
AND MILITARY.

6. ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL:

A) WE PREPARE A SEMIANNUAL ECONOMIC TRENDS REPORT
SUPPLEMENTED ON OUR OWN INITIATIVE BY MID-WINTER AND
MID-SUMMER ECONOMIC UPDATE WITH SPOT REPORTING AS
APPROPRIATE. CERP REQUIREMENTS AND A CONSTANT FLOW OF
AD HOC ACTION REQUESTS FROM WASHINGTON LIMITS TIME
AVAILABLE FOR POST-INITIATED ECON/COMMERCIAL PROJECTS.

B) THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PLAN ENVISAGES AN
"ISSUES PAPER" IN JUNE 1978 AND A MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT
LATER IN THE CALENDAR YEAR. THESE WILL PROVIDE BENCH-
MARKS FOR ADDITIONAL ANALYTICAL REPORTING.

C) WE HAVE INITIATED A SERIES OF REPORTS ON SECTORS
OF STRATEGIC/COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE (NUCLEAR POWER,
HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT) AND HAVE PLANS
FOR SIMILAR COVERAGE OF ENERGY IN GENERAL AND MINING
LATER THIS YEAR.

D) WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO EXPAND OUR COMMERCIAL
REPORTING BOTH ON EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE SECTORS, AND ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MIGHT
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AFFECT U.S. INVESTMENT IN IRELAND. WE WILL CONTINUE TO
ASSIST AS APPROPRIATE ON MTN AND ON US-EC COMMERCIAL
ISSUES.

7. LABOR:

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND LABOR UNREST ARE BIG QUESTION MARKS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO REDUCE THE INFLATION RATE WHILE INCREASING INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT AND WORKER EFFICIENCY. THE FIRST ONE-THIRD OF 1978 HAS NOT AUGURED WELL FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS. THE GOI IS MAKING A REVIEW OF THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM AND LEGISLATION WHICH, IF ACTED UPON, COULD HAVE A STRONG AFFECT ON EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC STABILITY FOR THE REST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TERM OF OFFICE. LABOR UNION RESTRAINT IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PLANS AND MUST BE WATCHED CLOSELY. ON THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR SCENE IT IS IMPORTANT TO WATCH ANY IRISH INPUT INTO THE GROWING CONFRONTATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND THE USSR.

8. AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE:

WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY THIRTY REGULARLY SCHEDULED AGRICULTURAL SITUATION AND COMMODITY REPORTS PER YEAR. IN ADDITION WE PREPARE FOUR ARTICLES PER YEAR FOR "FOREIGN AGRICULTURE" MAGAZINE. WE ALSO REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR AS VOLUNTARY REPORTS. AMONG PROBABLE VOLUNTARY ANALYTICAL REPORTS DURING THE REMAINDER OF 1978 ARE: EFFECTS ON IRISH AGRICULTURE OF THE LATEST EC PRICE REVIEW; EFFECTS OF

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ANY CONCESSIONS IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS ON U.S. EXPORT POSSIBILITIES; EFFECTS OF A COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR SHEEPMEEAT (IF ONE IS FINALIZED).
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